

10 Key Education Facts for Children in Care Moving to Permanency

1. DEFINITION of previous child in care (PCiC) / previously looked after child (PLAC):
“a previously looked-after child is one who is no longer looked after in England and Wales because s/he is the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order “

2. STATUTORY GUIDANCE '[Promoting-the-education-of-looked-after-and-previously-looked-after-children](#)' outlines responsibilities of schools and local authorities for previously looked after children.

3. DESIGNATED TEACHER: Every school must appoint a designated teacher to support and champion the educational progress of previously looked after children. The statutory guidance '[Designated-teacher-for-looked-after-and-previously-looked-after-children](#)' outlines their responsibilities.

4. ROLE OF VIRTUAL SCHOOL *for previously looked-after children is to promote their educational achievement through the provision of information and advice to their parents, educators and others who the VSH considers necessary.* Providing information and guidance may include providing information online, responding to parental requests for advice, or signposting to services.

5. ROLE OF VIRTUAL SCHOOL: *“The local authority and VS are no longer the corporate parent for previously looked-after children and the VSH role in relation to these children reflects this. VSHs are not expected to monitor the educational progress of individual children.”* '[Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked-after children](#)

6. PEP MEETINGS: Once there has been a change of care status through the courts and a child is no longer in care, statutory Personalised Education Plan meetings are no longer required. Whilst PEP meetings are no longer a statutory requirement, regular meetings are still recommended to track attendance, academic achievement and wellbeing. A suggested template can be downloaded [here](#).

7. PRIORITY ADMISSIONS: Children previously in care are entitled to priority admissions in schools as detailed in the School Admissions Code. [DfE School Admissions Code](#)

8. FAIR ACCESS PROTOCOL: Previous children in care and children in formal kinship care arrangements are eligible for the Fair Access Protocol. [GCC Fair Access Protocol](#)

9. PUPIL PREMIUM PLUS & EARLY YEARS PUPIL PREMIUM: Children who were previously in care for more than 24 hours and left care through an adoption order, child arrangements order, or special guardianship order are entitled to Pupil Premium+ and Early Years Pupil Premium. This funding is not ring-fenced for individual pupils but should be used effectively and accountably. [Virtual School Resources | Pupil Premium](#)

10. TRAINING: Designated Teachers have a responsibility for ensuring school staff are aware of the unique challenges faced by children in care and previously in care, and ensure inclusive practices are in place supporting children to learn and achieve. The Virtual School have training materials and schedule many free training sessions on a variety of topics. [Training & Resources 2025-2026 | Virtual School](#)

Contact: Sophie Hill sophie.hill@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Education Advisor for Previous Children in Care and Kinship Care, Gloucestershire Virtual School